

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
 - a nozzle unit having a nozzle,
 - an electric blower for sucking air,
 - a suction air passage provided between the nozzle unit and the electric blower, and
 - a cyclone dust collector, arranged in the suction air passage, for separating dust by making sucked air into a whirling ~~whiling~~ stream, wherein the cyclone dust collector comprises:
 - a dust collection chamber for collecting dust, the dust collection chamber
 - having an inlet port through which to introduce the sucked air, ~~for collecting separated dust,~~
 - a lid for selectively opening and closing the dust collection chamber, the lid
 - comprising ~~having~~ an exhaust port through which to discharge the sucked air out of the dust collection chamber, ~~for opening and closing the dust collection chamber,~~ and
 - an exhaust cylinder detachably fitted to the exhaust port of the lid,
 - a shielding member detachably fitted to a bottom end of the exhaust
 - cylinder, wherein the shielding member closes off the bottom end of the exhaust cylinder

so that air entering the exhaust cylinder enters the exhaust cylinder through a port located in a peripheral edge of the exhaust cylinder, and

wherein the shielding member is located above an area of the dust collecting chamber where dust is collected, and wherein the shielding member includes a plurality of elongated ribs extending downwardly from a top portion thereof for separating dust from the air in the dust collection chamber.

2. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, further comprising exhaust cylinder detecting means for detecting that the exhaust cylinder is located in a predetermined position, wherein the electric blower is controlled according to a result of detection by the exhaust cylinder detecting means.

3. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner comprising:
a nozzle unit having a nozzle,
an electric blower for sucking air,
a suction air passage provided between the nozzle unit and the electric blower, and
a cyclone dust collector[[,]] arranged in the suction air passage, the cyclone dust collector for separating dust by making sucked air into a whirling whiling stream,
wherein the cyclone dust collector comprises a dust collection chamber for collecting dust, the dust collecting chamber having an inlet port through which to introduce the sucked air and ~~for collecting separate dust,~~ an exhaust port through which

to discharge the sucked air out of the dust collection chamber, and a shielding member with which a stream ~~steam~~ of air inside the dust collection chamber is made to collide to separate dust from the air, the shielding member including a plurality of ribs extending downwardly from an upper portion thereof so that the stream of air collides with the ribs in order to separate dust from the air.

4. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 3, further comprising an exhaust cylinder detachably fitted in the exhaust port, wherein the exhaust cylinder and the shielding member are integrally detachable from the dust collection chamber.

5.(Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 4, wherein the exhaust cylinder is arranged above shielding member and substantially on a center line of the dust collection chamber.

6. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 3, wherein the shielding member has a circular portion having a substantially circular shape and arranged inside the dust collection chamber with a gap secured from an inner wall thereof and a protruding portion formed so as to protrude downward from a periphery of the circular portion.

7. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim [[6]] 3, wherein the ~~shielding member has a plurality of shielding ribs~~ are shaped like a flat plate and are so arranged as to extend radially from center to periphery radially on a bottom surface of the circular portion so as to protrude downward therefrom.

8. (Currently amended) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 7, wherein, between two adjacent ~~shielding~~ ribs, a projection rib is formed so as to protrude from the inner wall of the dust collection chamber toward a center thereof.

9. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cyclone dust collector is integrally detachable from the suction passage.

10. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 9, further comprising dust collector detecting means for detecting that the cyclone dust collector is located in a predetermined position, wherein the electric blower is controlled according to a result of detection by the dust collector detecting means.

11. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 3, wherein the cyclone dust collector is integrally detachable from the suction passage.

12. (Previously presented) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 11, further comprising dust collector detecting means for detecting that the cyclone dust collector is located in a predetermined position, wherein the electric blower is controlled according to a result of detection by the dust collector detecting means.

13. (New) A vacuum cleaner as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongated ribs are shaped like a flat plate and are arranged so as to extend radially from center to periphery.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 8-10. These sheets, which include Figs. 8-10, replace the original sheets including Figs. 8-10. In particular, Figs. 8-10 have been labeled "prior art."

Attachment: Replacement Sheets